

## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission met March 1, 2005, in Room 404 of the Biltmore Hotel, I-40 & Meridian Ave., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m. by Chair J.T. Winters Jr.. He stated this was a regularly scheduled meeting in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Title 25, Sections 301 and following as amended. The agenda for this meeting was posted February 24, 2005, at the front entrance of the building.

### ROLL CALL

Kim Tweed, Executive Secretary, took roll call and the following members were in attendance:

J.T. Winters Jr., Chair  
Rick Jeans, Vice Chair  
George Stunkard, Secretary (arrived at 8:09 a.m.)  
Dan Lowrance, Member  
Virginia Kidd, Member

Others in attendance were:

Mike Thralls, Executive Director  
Ben Pollard, Assistant Director  
Steve Coffman, Financial Management and Human Resources Director  
Robert Toole, Conservation Programs Director  
Larry Edmison, Water Quality Program Director  
Mike Kastl, Abandoned Mine Land Program Director  
Shellie Willoughby, GIS Specialist  
Lisa Knauf, District Services Director  
Mark Harrison, Information Representative  
Clay Pope, Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts Executive Director  
Darrel Dominick, Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist  
Richard Parker, Oklahoma County Conservation District Director  
Gerald Dewitt, Kay County Conservation District Director  
Lonette Stone, Kay County Conservation District Secretary  
Kim Tweed, Executive Secretary

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Ms. Kidd and seconded by Mr. Jeans to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2005, Commission meeting as written. Those voting aye were: Winters, Jeans, Lowrance, and Kidd. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

Mr. Stunkard arrived.

## **DISTRICT DIRECTOR APPOINTMENTS**

Mike Thralls, Executive Director, presented recommendations for appointment of conservation district directors as listed in Exhibit #1. A motion was made by Mr. Jeans and seconded by Ms. Kidd to approve district director appointments as listed below with terms to expire as indicated. Those voting aye were: Winters, Jeans, Stunkard, Lowrance, and Kidd. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

### **Resignations:**

Ray Carroll - Atoka County  
Donnell Kalivoda - Cleveland County  
Tim Kilpatrick - Nowata County

### **Appointments:**

Adair County - Term to Expire February 10, 2007 - Micky Longshore  
\*Atoka County - Term to Expire March 31, 2007 - Hugh Thomas  
Cimarron County - Term to Expire March 11, 2007 - John Schnauffer  
Coal County - Term to Expire March 11, 2007 - Jim Carter  
Custer County - Term to Expire February 1, 2007 - Lonnie Haggard  
Deer Creek - Term to Expire March 11, 2007 - Bertha Miller  
Garvin - Term to Expire March 11, 2007 - Jess Lam III  
Kiamichi - Term to Expire February 11, 2007 - Bob Holley

\*New Director

## **CLAIMS/FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Steve Coffman, Financial Management and Human Resources Director, presented the claims and financial statement as listed in Exhibit #2. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Lowrance and seconded by Mr. Stunkard to approve the claims and financial statement. Those voting aye were: Winters, Jeans, Stunkard, Lowrance, and Kidd. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

## **PRESENTATION OF COMMISSION AGREEMENTS**

Ben Pollard, Assistant Director, presented agreements for approval as listed in Exhibit #3. A motion was made by Ms. Kidd and seconded by Mr. Jeans to ratify the following agreement as presented. Those voting aye were: Winters, Jeans, Stunkard, Lowrance, and Kidd. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

- a. Oklahoma Department of Transportation to coordinate the abatement of an AML emergency in the right-of-way along SH 270 in Alderson, OK.

A motion was made by Mr. Jeans and seconded by Mr. Lowrance to approve the following amended agreements. Those voting aye were: Winters, Jeans, Stunkard, Lowrance, and Kidd. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

- b. Oklahoma State University to provide for identification of critical areas in need of treatment within the Turkey Creek Watershed; no cost time extension.
- c. Oklahoma Water Resources Board to demonstrate and establish shoreline erosion vegetative control in the Stillwater Creek Project; no cost time extension.

## **OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUESTS**

Mr. Thralls presented out of state travel requests as listed in Exhibit #4. Mr. Thralls recommended approval for the requests and also recommended the approval of two or three members and one staff member to attend the NACD Spring Legislative Conference. A motion was made by Ms. Kidd and seconded by Mr. Stunkard to approve the requests as listed and to approve three members and one staff member to attend the NACD Spring Legislative Conference. Those voting aye were: Winters, Jeans, Stunkard, Lowrance, and Kidd. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

## **CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTOR, ELECTED POSITION #1**

Mr. Thralls presented Conservation District Director, Election Position #1 information as presented in Exhibit #5.

A motion was made by Mr. Lowrance and seconded by Mr. Jeans to certify candidates in districts where only one eligible candidate filed a Notification and Declaration of Candidacy for Election as elected to Position #1. Those voting aye were: Winters, Jeans, Stunkard, Lowrance, and Kidd. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Jeans and seconded by Mr. Stunkard to declare Elected Position #1 vacant in districts where no eligible candidate filed, effective April 1, 2005. Those voting aye were: Winters, Jeans, Stunkard, Lowrance, and Kidd. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Kidd and seconded by Mr. Lowrance to authorize the Executive Director to declare candidates receiving the highest number of votes during the March 8, 2005 election as elected to Position #1. Those voting aye were: Winters, Jeans, Stunkard, Lowrance, and Kidd. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

## **CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE NATIONAL LAND AND RANGE JUDGING CONTEST**

A motion was made by Mr. Jeans and seconded by Mr. Lowrance to co-sponsor the National Land and Range Judging Contest, May 3-5, 2005, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Those voting aye were: Winters, Jeans, Stunkard, Lowrance, and Kidd. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Messrs. Jeans, Stunkard, Lowrance and Winters reported that the National Association of Conservation Districts Annual meeting held recently in Atlanta, Georgia was very productive and were all excited to see Bill Wilson become president of the NACD. They also commended OACD and Commission staff for their work with the OACD state meeting .

Mr. Stunkard reported that the Legislative Breakfast scheduled for March 11 in Wagoner has been changed to March 18 due to a legislative conflict.

## **OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION STAFF**

*Administration:* Mike Thralls, Executive Director, also commented on the NACD meeting held in Atlanta. Mr. Thralls said that Mr. Lowrance was elected as the new president of the OACD.

Mr. Thralls reported that the NRCS budget has been reduced by a significant amount and if this reduction is not rectified the Commission will be affected because of the Contribution Agreement in the amount of \$600,000.

Mr. Thralls reported that the REAP funds are healthy this year and that additional funds may be available for watershed rehabilitation and the cost-share program in the future.

Mr. Thralls stated his pleasure with the OACD state meeting and commended Clay Pope and Don Bartolina along with commission staff on planning this meeting.

Ben Pollard, Assistant Director, reported that the Commission's risk management plan will be bid later this month and staff is hopeful that the policy will remain at the same level.

Mr. Pollard commended OACD, OACDE, NRCS and Commission staff for their work with the state meeting.

*Financial Management and Human Resources:* Steve Coffman, Director, reported that staff is attending extensive training on the conversion of the payroll to the new CORE system.

*Conservation Programs:* Robert Toole, Director, stated that a written report was included in the meeting packet.

*Water Quality:* Larry Edmison, Director, stated that staff will be attending a meeting in Joplin, Missouri with Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas officials to discuss a large scale watershed plan for Grand Lake.

Staff will be meeting with a representative from BMPs Inc. to discuss changes made by the state of Arkansas on litter export.

*Abandoned Mine Land:* Mike Kastl, Director, stated that a written report was included in the meeting packet.

*Information Technology:* Shellie Willoughby, GIS Specialist, reported that GIS Day at the Capitol is scheduled for March 8 and that Governor Brad Henry has proclaimed that day at "GIS Day in Oklahoma."

*District Services:* Lisa Knauf, Director, reported on attending board meetings in Garvin, Garfield County, Beaver County and Cotton County Conservation Districts. She is working with finance staff to inform conservation districts on payroll worksheet revisions.

Ms. Knauf is working with the NRCS on conservation planning training that will be available for district employees.

## **OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Clay Pope, Executive Director, expressed his appreciation to the Commission staff for their work with the OACD state meeting. He also commended Don Bartolina and Ben Pollard for their work.

He expressed the Association's concern of the NRCS budget reductions and vowed to work with the Congressional delegation on this issue. He strongly encouraged all conservation districts to contact the congressional delegation about this issue.

Mr. Pope has been working on legislative issues and is preparing for Conservation Day at the Capitol on March 29.

## **USDA-NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

Darrel Dominick, Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist, thanked the leadership for their efforts with a great state meeting.

Mr. Dominick stated that the NRCS has received a \$2 to \$3 million shortfall for this fiscal year and that he is not allowed to furlough employees. He stated that Oklahoma received the greatest amount of reduction nationwide. He will be working with the budget he has been given and will do his best to manage it.

A summary of activities for the NRCS is attached.

## **USDA-FARM SERVICE AGENCY**

No representative present.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission will be held on April 11, 2005, in the Agriculture Building Board Room, 2800 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma beginning at 9:30 a.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Stunkard and seconded by Mr. Lowrance to adjourn. Those voting aye were: Winters, Jeans, Stunkard, Lowrance, and Kidd. Nay votes: none. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

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Approved by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission on April 11, 2005.

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CHAIR